Put forth disorder'd twigs ; her fallow leas
The darnel, hemlock, and rank fumitory,
Doth root upon; while that the coulter[1] rusts,
That should deracinate[2] such savagery:
The even mead, that erst brought sweetly forth
The freckled cowslip, burnet, and green clover,
Wanting the scythe, all[3] uncorrected, rank,
Conceives by idleness ; and nothing teems,
But hateful docks, rough thistles, kecksies, burs,
Losing both beauty and utility.
And as our vineyards[4], fallows, meads, and hedges,
Defective in their natures[5], grow to wildness;
Even so our houses, and ourselves, and children,

*c wild exuberance " it resembles the prisoner " overgrown with hair "

As a hedge, however, that is *even-pleached* or woven together, and one that is *dint*, are alike reduced to an even surface, our author, with his usual licence, might have meant only by *even-pleached* ^ ** our hedges which were heretofore *clipped* smooth and even "

The line " Like prisoners " &c. it should be observed relates to the one which follows, and not to that which precedes it. The construction is, * Her even-pleached hedges put forth disordered twigs, resembling persons in prison, whose faces are from neglect over-grown with hair. " MALONE

* —coulter—] The ploughshare. See Johnson's Dict. in voce REED

2 — deracinate —] To *deracinate* is to force up by the roots. So, in Troilus and Cressida:

«« — rend and *deracinate*

" The unity " &c. MALONE

3 —all—] Old copy, unxnetrically—withall STEEVENS

4 And AS our vineyards,] The old copy reads—And *all* our vineyards. The emendation was made by Mr. Roderick.

MALONE

^ Defective in their NATURES.] *Nature* had been changed by some of the editors into *nurture* ; but, as Mr. Upton observes, unnecessarily. " Sua deficiuntur fiatura " They were not defective in their *crescive* nature, for they grew to

wildness: but they were defective in their proper and favourable nature which was to bring forth food for man. STEEVENS.